

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03751 01 OF 02 062034Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /028 W
-----118611 062043Z /64
R 061421Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1585

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 3751

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGEN, XX, SW
SUBJECT: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 206010

1. IT WOULD TAKE A MORE PRESUMPTUOUS DCM THAN THE UNDERSIGNED TO AGREE TO GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR AN AMBASSADOR HE HAS NOT MET WHO IS ARRIVING IN TWO WEEKS AND WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON WHEN THIS MESSAGE ARRIVES. STILL, WE HAVE CORRESPONDED WITH AMBASSADOR KENNEDY-MINOTT ENOUGH THAT WE FEEL WE HAVE SOME INSIGHT INTO HIS HOPES FOR HIS PERIOD OF STEWARDSHIP IN SWEDEN, SO PERHAPS SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENTS MAY BE OFFERED, SUBJECT TO HIS OWN STATEMENT EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR AFTER ARRIVAL HERE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, SOME OF THE STATEMENTS IN THE REFTEL FOLLOW CLOSELY THE VIEWS THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED TO US (NOT ONLY SPECIFICS LIKE THE YOUTH PROGRAM AND GREATER TRAVEL WITHIN SWEDEN, BUT AN OVERALL EMPHASIS ON COOPERATIVE APPROACHES TO WORLD PROBLEMS), SO EITHER WE SEE A HAPPY COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS OR ELSE HE WAS ABLE TO OFFER SOME THOUGHTS DURING HIS EARLIER CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. EITHER WAY, THE POINT IS THAT WE SUSPECT HE WILL FIND THE GOALS SET FORTH COMPATIBLE WITH HIS THINKING AND WORTHY OF HIS EFFORTS.

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2. GENERALLY SPEAKING, WE FIND THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM, BY THE WAY?) WELL THOUGHT-OUT. THEY SEEM TO FLOW NATURALLY, FOR THE MOST PART, FROM THE POLICY ASSESSMENT PROCESS. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE STATED IS NOT MEANT TO BE OVERLY SIGNIFICANT, WE HAVE NO QUARREL

WITH ANY SPECIFIC LISTING. A SMALL SEMANTIC POINT IS THAT EVEN IN CONFIDENTIAL CABLES WE DO NOT LIKE TO IMPLY THAT WE THINK THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL LOSE IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS, SO WE WOULD PREFER TO REPHRASE THE FIRST POINT IN PART III TO SAY, "MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ALL SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING OLOF PALME AND THE OPPOSITION SOCIAL DEMOCRATS." SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRYING TO REACH SWEDISH YOUTH, WE WOULD ALSO PREFER TO SAY, "DEVELOP THE YOUTH PROGRAM TO REACH FUTURE SWEDISH LEADERS ALL ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, INCLUDING THOSE DISAFFECTED WITH THE US DURING THE VIETNAM ERA." WE KNOW IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT SOME OF THE GOALS ARE THOSE WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DOING OUR BEST TO ACHIEVE, FOR EXAMPLE "DEEPENING SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT WITH SWEDISH INTELLECTUAL AND MEDIA LEADERS". IT DOES NOT HURT ANYTHING TO REITERATE AND STRESS THESE.

3. WE DO NOT SEE ANY CRUCIAL OMISSIONS. TWO ANCILLARY THOUGHTS COME TO MIND, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A DANGER OF STATING GOALS THAT APPLY MUTATIS MUTANDIS IN EVERY COUNTRY. FIRST, IN CONNECTION WITH "DEEPENING CONTACT WITH MEDIA LEADERS," OUR GOAL MUST BE TO INFORM SWEDISH MEDIA AS FULLY AND FRANKLY AS POSSIBLE ABOUT US DEVELOPMENTS. SWEDES ARE FRANK, AND OUR ATTEMPT TO BUILD A SOLID RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESS HERE--WHICH HAS BEEN A MAJOR PREOCCUPATION OF USIS AND THE EMBASSY

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AS A WHOLE OVER THE PAST YEAR OR MORE--DEPENDS UPON A GREAT DEGREE OF OPENNESS IN TALKING ABOUT US EVENTS AND US POLICY. THIS IS EASIER TO SAY THAN TO DO, SINCE THE IMPULSE TO OMIT OR TO FUZZ OVER IS OMNIPRESENT, AND WILL BE MORE PRONOUNCED IN TIMES OF US SETBACKS: WE STILL CONSIDER IT VITAL. SECOND, AS PART OF THE CONTINUING COME-BACK FROM THE VIETNAM ERA LOW, AND WITH A COMPLICATED THREE-PARTY COALITION RUNNING SWEDEN, ARRANGING HIGH-LEVEL VISITS BECOMES ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT. SEVERAL ADMINISTRATION FIGURES HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO COME TO SWEDEN, AND WE HAVE ALREADY HAD SOME IMPORTANT POSTPONEMENTS OR CANCELLATIONS: WE WILL NEED TO DELIVER ON SOME HIGH-LEVEL PROMISES AND, WE HOPE, GENERATE SOME MORE--AND WE MUST ALSO INVITE THE SWEDES TO COME VISIT US. THE RECORD HAS BEEN GOOD IN THE PAST, BUT WE BELIEVE THE AMBASSADOR WILL WANT TO CONTINUE TO GIVE THIS MATTER PRIORITY.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1586

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 3751

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

4. ALL OF THE ABOVE BEING SAID, INCLUDING APPLAUSE FOR A GENERALLY EXCELLENT STATEMENT OF GOALS, WE DO HAVE WHAT COULD BE A PROBLEM WITH THE FIRST POINT (FROM "8. SEEK TO ENCOURAGE..." DOWN TO "...SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS.") IF THE TROUBLE IS WORDING, THERE IS NO BIG PROBLEM, BUT IF IT IS CONCEPTUAL, THERE MAY BE. TRADITIONALLY WE HAVE LISTED SOME VERSION OF POINT II (ON SWEDEN'S ROLE AS A MEMBER OF THE WESTERN FAMILY) IN FIRST POSITION. IN VIEW OF THE NEW HARMONY BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AFTER VIETNAM, IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE TO TALK FIRST ABOUT COOPERATION IN WORLD AFFAIRS (AND AS WE SAID ABOVE, WE BELIEVE AMBASSADOR KENNEDY-MINOTT APPROVES THIS KIND OF APPROACH). THIS MEANS GOING BEYOND MERE FRIENDLY RELATIONS TO CLOSE AND ACTIVE COOPERATION IN SOLVING SOME MAJOR WORLD PROBLEMS, BASED ON SWEDEN'S UNUSUAL PRESTIGE IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. WHAT BOTHERS US IN THE REFTEL IS THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S FIRST PRIORITY SEEMS TO BE TO LINE SWEDEN UP WITH US POSITIONS IN VARIOUS FORUMS. THE OBJECTIVE IS NOT WORKING TOGETHER BUT GETTING SWEDEN TO WORK WITH US--OR AT LEAST WE SEE THAT IMPLICATION. FRANKLY, OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR ANY BIG SWINGS IN SWEDISH POSITIONS ARE MODEST: STRANGE AS IT SOUNDS, IT IS THE US UNDER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS SWUNG CLOSER TO SWEDISH POSITIONS IN SOME AREAS, AND WE HAVE NEVER HELD OUT MUCH HOPE THAT THE SWEDES (EVEN THE NEW
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GOVERNMENT) WOULD MOVE TOO FAR TO MEET US. NO DOUBT WE CAN ENDEAVOR TO DO MORE IN THIS RESPECT, AND WE IMAGINE THE AMBASSADOR AND ALL THE SENIOR STAFF WILL GIVE THIS THEIR UTMOST ATTENTION. NEVERTHELESS WE MUST

RECOGNIZE THAT IN FOREIGN POLICY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT
IS BOXED IN BY PALME'S RECORD AND HIS WORLD PRESTIGE, AND
IT HAS MADE A POINT OF PROCLAIMING CONTINUITY WITH HIS
POLICIES. UNLESS WE BASE OUR POLICY ON FALSE HOPES,
THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST SOME RETHINKING. WE RECOMMEND
(SUBJECT TO THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS) SOMETHING LIKE:
"8. STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH SWEDEN IN ATTACKING
WORLD PROBLEMS IN THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS,
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SWEDEN'S NEUTRAL CREDENTIALS AND
INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD ISSUES TO PROMOTE AGREED POLICY
OBJECTIVES." WITH THIS CONCEPT SO SET FORTH, THE FIRST
SUB-POINT ("MAINTAIN AN ONGOING DIALOGUE...TO SOLICIT
ACTIVE SWEDISH SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS") WOULD STAND AS
STATED, WITH SOME HOPE OF SUCCESS.
PERRY

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